IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 13 and replace with the following:

As indicated in **Figure 1**, router ~~**116**~~ **117** is coupled to wide area network (WAN) and/or local area network (LAN) connections to other hosts or other routers. The I/O chassis **108** in **Figure 1** includes an I/O switch **146** and multiple I/O modules **148-156**. In these examples, the I/O modules take the form of adapter cards. Example adapter cards illustrated in **Figure 1** include a SCSI adapter card for I/O module **148**; an adapter card to fiber channel hub and fiber channel-arbitrated loop (FC-AL) devices for I/O module **152**; an ethernet adapter card for I/O module **150**; a graphics adapter card for I/O module **154**; and a video adapter card for I/O module **156**. Any known type of adapter card can be implemented. I/O adapters also include a switch in the I/O adapter backplane to couple the adapter cards to the SAN fabric. These modules contain target channel adapters **158-166**.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 15 and replace with the following:

A portion of a distributed computer system employing a reliable connection service to communicate between distributed processes is illustrated generally in **Figure 5**. The distributed computer system **500** in **Figure 5** includes a host processor node 1, a host processor node 2, and a host processor node 3. Host processor node 1 includes a process A **510**. Host processor node ~~2~~ 3 includes a process C **520** and a process D **530**. Host processor node ~~3~~ 2 includes a process E **540**.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 24 and replace with the following:

Host processor node 1 includes queue pairs 4, 6 and 7, each having a send work queue and receive work queue. Host processor node 2 has a queue pair 9 and host processor node 3 has queue pairs 2 and 5. The reliable connection service of distributed computer system **500** associates a local queue pair with one ~~an~~ and only one remote queue pair. Thus, the queue pair 4

is used to communicate with queue pair 2; queue pair 7 is used to communicate with queue pair 5; and queue pair 6 is used to communicate with queue pair 9.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 7 and replace with the following:

In **Figure 8**, a portion of a distributed computer system is depicted at **800** to illustrate an example request and acknowledgment transaction. The distributed computer system in **Figure 8** includes a host processor node **802** and a host processor node **804**. Host processor node **802** includes a host channel adapter **806**. Host processor node **804** includes a host channel adapter **808**. The distributed computer system in **Figure 8** includes a SAN fabric **810**, which includes a switch **812** and a switch **814**. The SAN fabric includes a link coupling host channel adapter **806** to switch **812**; a link coupling switch **812** to switch **814**; and a link coupling host channel adapter **808** to switch **814**.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 20 and replace with the following:

In the example transactions, host processor node **802** includes a client process A **816**. Host processor node **804** includes a client process B **818**. Client process A interacts with host channel adapter hardware **806** through queue pair **824** and **826**. Client process B interacts with hardware channel adapter hardware **808** through queue pair **828** and **830**. Queue pairs **824** and **828** are data structures that include a send work queue and a receive work queue. Process A initiates a message request by posting work queue elements to the send queue of queue pair **824**. Such a work queue element is illustrated in **Figure 4**. The message request of client process A is referenced by a gather list contained in the send work queue element. Each data segment in the gather list points to a virtually contiguous local memory region, which contains a part of the message, such as indicated by data segments 1, 2, and 3, which respectively hold message parts 1, 2, and 3, in **Figure 4**.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 7 and replace with the following:

A local ID (LID) refers to a short address ID used to identify a CA port within a single subnet. In one example embodiment, a subnet has up to 2^{16} end nodes, switches, and routers, and the LID is accordingly 16 bits. A source LID (SLID) and a destination LID (DLID) are the source and destination LIDs used in a local network header. A single CA port ~~1006~~ 906 has up to 2^{LMC} LIDs **912** assigned to it. The LMC represents the LID Mask Control field in the CA. A mask is a pattern of bits used to accept or reject bit patterns in another set of data.

Please delete the abstract beginning on page 49, line 6 and replace with the following:

~~An apparatus~~ Apparatus and method for virtualizing a queue pair space to minimize time-wait impacts. ~~The apparatus and method allocate virtual~~ Virtual queue pairs are allocated from a virtual queue pair pool of a node to connections between the node and other nodes. The connection is established between a physical queue pair of the node and physical queue pairs of other nodes. ~~However, from~~ From the viewpoint of the other nodes, they are communicating with the present node using the virtual queue pair and not the physical queue pair for the present node. By using the virtual queue pairs, the same physical queue pair may accommodate multiple connections with other nodes simultaneously. Moreover, ~~by using a virtual queue pair rather than a physical queue pair,~~ when a connection is torn down, the virtual queue pair is placed in a time-wait state rather than the physical queue pair. As a result, the physical queue pair may continue to function while the virtual queue pair is in the time-wait state.